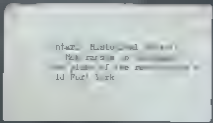

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Ontario Historical Society

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Memorandum to accompany the Plans
of the

Restoration of Old Fort York

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SUBMITTED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
METROPOLITAN TART AND PARKS COMMISSIONERS
AT
A MEETING IN THE CENOTAPH INSTITUTE
ON 8 ENUARY 1906

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Alex. Fraser Toronto, Rev. Canon Cruikshank, Toronto.
Prof. Shortt, Ottawa.

BRITISH FORCES

Detachments of which have been Quartered in the OLD FORT YORK and TORONTO between 1793 and 1870

8T DRAGOON GUARDS
16TH LIGHT DRAGOONS

7TH (QUEEN'S OWN) REGIMENT OF FOOT GUARDS

Royal Navy
Royal Artillery

49th Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery
Royal Marine Artillery

Royal Engineers.

Royal Sappers and Miners
Royal Military Train.

Queen's Rangers.
3rd York Militia
8th King's Regiment.
Nova Scotians and Regiment.
Glengarry Light Infantry
Loyal Indians (Corps.
1st Royal Scots.
5th Foot.
6th Foot.
19th Foot.
24th Foot.
47th Foot.
58th Foot.
62nd Foot.
79th Foot.
82nd Foot.
84th Foot.
89th Foot.
93rd Foot.
97th Foot.
100th Foot.
(Prince's Regt.

40th Regiment.
41st Foot.
43rd Foot.
46th Foot.
63rd Foot.
70th Foot.
76th Foot.
78th Foot.
81st Foot.
85th Foot.
90th Foot.
95th Foot.
99th Foot.
2nd York Militia.
3rd Durham Militia.
De Watteville's Regiment.
Royal Canadian Volunteers.
Canadian Voltigeurs
Canadian Fencibles.
Royal Canadian Rifles.

Compiled with the assistance of the Archives Department, Ottawa.
Ontario Historical Society 1934 Jan. 1934

County Societies under Affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society

Peel Pioneer Historical Society	Brampton
Wentworth Historical Society	Hamilton
Welland Pioneer and Historical Society	Fonthill
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Thornhill and District Historical Society	Thornhill
North Grenville Historical Society	St. Thomas
Norfolk County Historical Society	Simcoe
Wentworth High Historical Society	St. Thomas
Lambton and Middlesex County Historical Society	London
Ottawa Women's Canadian Historical Society	Ottawa
Bruce County Historical Society	Southampton
The Huron Institute	Clinton
Lennox and Addington County Historical Society	Napanee
Lincoln Lake Historical Society	Niagara Falls
Women's Wentworth Historical Society	Hamilton
Grenville County Historical Society	Prescott
Kingston and Frontenac Historical Society	Kingston
Niagara Historical Society	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Oxford County Historical Society	Woodstock
Peterborough Historical Society	Peterborough
Halton County Historical Society	Milton
Lambton County Historical Society	Sarnia
Women's Renfrew Co Historical Society	Bonnechere
Victoria County Historical Society	Lindsay
Huron County Historical Society	Windsor
Northumberland-Durham Historical Society	Cobourg
Tecumseh Historical Society	Thamesville
Brant Historical Society	Brantford
Thunder Bay Historical Society	Fort William
Canadian Bookseller Historical Society	Toronto
Waterloo Canadian Historical Society	Toronto
Imperial Order Daughters of Empire	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists' Association	Toronto
York Pioneer and Historical Society	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists' Association	Toronto

Societies Associated in Defence of the Fort

Army and Navy Veterans	Toronto
Veterans of 1866	Toronto
Sutherland Column Association	Toronto
North-West Field Force Association, 1885	Toronto
South African Veteran Association	Toronto
The Navy League	Toronto
British Empire League	Toronto
Canadian Club	Toronto
St. Georges Society	Toronto
Ontario Society of Artists	Toronto
The Board of Education	Toronto
Old Fort Protection Association	Toronto

From "Fifty Years Ago" — J. E. Hodder

Memorandum to Accompany the Plans for the Restoration of Old Fort York Prepared by the Ontario Historical Society

FOR a number of years there have been discussions in progress with respect to the use and future of the OLD FORT. When in 1903 it was agreed with the Dominion Government that this Fort property would, together with the other Ordnance lands comprising the Garrison Common, be transferred to the City of Toronto, it was a part of the Agreement that this old Fort should be "restored and maintained by the City as an Historical Memorial for ever."

While there have been many projects suggested with respect to a use to be made of it, there have been no plans proposed for its restoration, and much remains has been done in any manner.

The Ontario Historical Society on behalf of the County Municipal and Patriotic Societies in Ontario and of the local societies in Toronto, has been actively interesting itself in the preservation and restoration.

In negotiations opened with the Mayor of Toronto in July last, I undertook on behalf of the Society that if the City would make surveys of the Fort as it now exists, and of the land attached to it, the Society would prepare the necessary plans for its restoration.

It had been ascertained by the Society that considerable encroachment had been made upon the Fort property as originally reserved and agreed to be conveyed to the City by the Government.

The p[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

the Fort [illegible] in its present alignment as of old but really were quite by the running of wall, light one hundred years.

The Saint Lys Plan, now presented to his the old Ramparts up again to their original condition and restores them as a complete Fortress

At the WEST there was originally a massive shield for the protection of the Western Batteries. This was filled in at the time of the construction of the Garrison sewer by the City. It is proposed that that be restored to its origin al contour and the earth contained applied to the restoration of the earth-work of the ramparts. The top of the Ramparts will be 15 feet in width on this part as proposed there should be a promenade following the whole circuit of the fortress, and leaving on the South face overlooking the Lake, entirely paved for the use of visitors.

At the East will be Ramparts, suitable, will be two good flanking towers as of round pockets, which originally concealed the Fort, and did very possible to this case of Stockaded Forts. Some of these pockets are still a place, and are also shown in early drawings and photographs being projected and set enclosing outwards at an angle as a decoure de fros and form for the Fal sades.

At the EAST and at the WEST entrances at the ends of the original road way as shown, [illegible] the Fort, it is proposed that there should be erected two Memorial Gates, of adequate character following the examples of the restoration of the ramparts at Quebec, and providing, as shown a continuous footway over the roadway and around the ramparts. One of these to be known as the "Brock" Gate, the other as the "Simcoe" Gate, in memory of the two leading Personages in our history when the Fort was first established.

The roadway to the Western gate would rise up to the entrance as of old. The Western gate would contain gate with the road to be used by a motor bridge crossing over the restored moat as such.

In the INTERIOR, the barracks will be replaced as per the original plans, and the guard, which in later years have been removed and are to be to as to store chevaux de [illegible] be placed back a post on

The Bridge left a Barracks, Block Houses and Magazine, which actually remain in the same per times as in 1818 will be repaired

At the HALL each side is the west gate there was the "Officers and Men's Guard Rooms, having a verandah on front, as shown in the drawing a "Robertson's Landmarks," page 7 Vol. VIII and on

...ce plan of 1816. In this Hall the Quebec Masonic Lodge, or Lodge No 3 of Ancient York Masons, met in 1792-1900. It is proposed that this building shall be restored to its original form.

Note: The NORTH WEST bastion here is still a four storied two storey brick "Senior Officers Quarters" of 1812. In the cellar is still remaining the cabin masonry vault in which the "Military Chest" of the Province used to be kept. This building has been used as continuous occupation Headquarters, either for the Garrison or for the Military District, since its inception over a few years ago, when the headquarters were removed to the Stanley Barracks.

In the SOUTH RAMPARTS is the No. 1 BLOCKHOUSE" on a stone foundation on the most prominent shown on the plan of November 1811, and as enclosed, again on a plan of July 1814, and again on the plan of 1816.

On the NORTH side of the roadway are the long masonry Barracks. These buildings are constructed of hard rock, but are now shapboarded. They are divided into four cottages, each well large, square fire-places in the low-set aged rooms.

In the CENTER are, the original POWDER MAGAZINE, the large No. 2 BLOCKHOUSE with flagstaff above, and the STONE MAGAZINE, over the doorway of which there is set on the keystone the inscription, "34 Geo. III" making its date 1794.

At the WEST end on each side of the Citadel roadway are still standing, but in need repair the original "SOLDIERS' BARRACKS" being two long masonry brick buildings, each divided into three cottages.

All these buildings are shown and numbered on the plan of 1816. They are, therefore, simple matter of fact restoration. It is suggested that these buildings and barracks when restored might well be used as museums and as permanent quarters for old Military Veterans, so would be the guardians of the Fort and guides for visitors.

If the names of the Regiments, which in the last hundred years have been quartered in the Isle aux Noix, were placed over the doors, there would be a noble record which would include almost all the older regiments of the British Army which have served in America and the Regiments early raised in Canada for her defence, which were afterwards either disbanded or merged into other regiments.

The Restoration proposed is a simple and practical one, which can be immediately begun, and which would preserve the memorials of those historic spots for the edification of our youth, be a reverend Memorial to the men who gallantly served our country and be an attraction to the travelling public and for the enjoyment of our own Citizens.

These Plans are respectfully submitted by the Ontario Historical Society to the Historical and Military Societies for their consideration

RANLOW CHAMBERLAIN,
President O.H.S

Toronto 12th January 1909

Extract from the Address of Major-General Brock when opening the House of Assembly of Upper Canada at York on 27th July 1812.

"We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils and by vigour in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson, that a country defended by free men enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution cannot be conquered.

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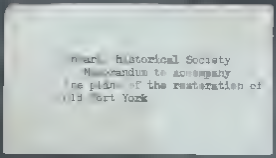

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Ontario Historical Society

ORGANIZED 1888
INCORPORATED 1888

Memorandum to accompany the Plans of the Restoration of Old Fort York

SUBMITTED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HISTORICAL MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC BODIES
AT
A MEETING IN THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE
2ND JANUARY 1909

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Lt.-Col H. Cruikshank, F.R.C.S Ottawa.

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Alex. Fraser Toronto.	Barlow Cumberland, Toronto.

Prof Shortt, Ottawa.

BRITISH FORCES

Detachments of which have been Quartered in the OLD FORT YORK and TORONTO between 1795 and 1870

19T DRAGOON GUARDS.
16TH LIGHT DRAGOONS

7TH HUSSARS.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BODY GUARD

Royal Navy
Royal Artillery

16th Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery
Royal Marine Artillery

Royal Engineers.

Royal Sappers and Miners
Royal Military Train.

Queen's Rangers.
3rd York Militia
8th King's Regiment
Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Glengarry Light Infantry
Loyal Indians. (Glynns.)
1st Royal Scots.
5th Foot.
6th Foot.
16th Foot.
19th Foot.
17th Foot.
20th Foot.
27th Foot.
24th Foot
30th Foot
32nd Foot.
34th Foot.
37th Foot
40th Foot.
42nd Foot.
47th Foot.
49th Foot (Brock's Regt.)

60th Rifles.
62nd Foot.
63rd Foot
68th Foot.
69th Foot.
70th Foot
71st Foot
72nd Foot
76th Foot.
79th Foot.
81st Foot.
89th Foot.
93rd Foot.
100th Royal Canadians
103rd Foot.
104th Foot.
1st York Militia.
1st Durham Militia
De Watteville's Regiment.
Royal Canadian Volunteers
Canadian Voltigeurs
Canadian Fencibles
Royal Canadian Rifles.

Compiled with the assistance of the Archives Department Ottawa, Ontario Historical Society 12th Jan., 1909

County Societies under Affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society

Peel Pioneer Historical Society	Brampton
Wentworth Historical Society	Hamilton
Simcoe Pioneer and Historical Society	Barrie
Belleville and Bay of Quinte Historical Society	Belleville
Thorold and Beaver Dams Historical Society	Thorold
Elgin County Historical Society	St. Thomas
Norfolk County Historical Society	Simcoe
Women's High Historical Society	St. Thomas
London and Middlesex County Historical Society	London
Ottawa Women's Canadian Historical Society	Ottawa
Brant County Historical Society	Southampton
The Huron Institute	Collingwood
Lennox and Addington County Historical Society	Napanee
Lundy's Lane Historical Society	Niagara Falls
Women's Wentworth Historical Society	Hamilton
Grenville County Historical Society	Prescott
Manitou and Frontenac Historical Society	Kingston
Niagara Historical Society	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Oxford County Historical Society	Woodstock
Peterborough Historical Society	Peterborough
Halton County Historical Society	Milton
Lambton County Historical Society	Sarnia
Women's Bowmanville Historical Society	Bowmanville
Victoria County Historical Society	Lindsay
Essex County Historical Society	Windsor
Northumberland County Historical Society	Cobourg
Tecumseth Historical Society	Thamesville
Brant Historical Society	Brantford
Thunder Bay Historical Society	Fort William
Canadian Methodists Historical Society	Toronto
Women's Canadian Historical Society	Toronto
Imperial Order Daughters of Empire	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists Association	Toronto
York Pioneer and Historical Society	Hamilton
U. E. Loyalists' Association	Toronto
	Toronto

Societies Associated in Defence of the Fort

Army and Navy Veterans	Toronto
Veterans of 1866	Toronto
Battleford Column Association	Toronto
North-West Field Force Association, 1885	Toronto
South African Veterans Association	Toronto
The Navy League	Toronto
British Empire League	Toronto
Canadian Club	Toronto
St. George's Society	Toronto
Ontario Society of Artists	Toronto
The Board of Education	Toronto
Old Fort Protection Association	Toronto

View from the Blockhouse looking westward. Midway between the Blockhouse and the Garrison Creek. From "The Old Fort"—J. E. Cossom.

Memorandum to Accompany the Plans for the Restoration of Old Fort York Prepared by the Ontario Historical Society.

FOR a number of years there have been discussions in progress with respect to the use and future of the OLD FORT. When in 1903 it was agreed with the Dominion Government that this Fort property would together with the other Ordnance lands comprising the Garrison Common, be transferred to the City of Toronto, it was a part of the Agreement that this old Fort should be "restored and maintained by the City as an Historical Memorial for ever."

While there have been many projects suggested with respect to a use to be made of it, there have been no plans proposed for its restoration and much unrest has been thereby occasioned.

The Ontario Historical Society on behalf of the County Historical and Patriotic Societies in Ontario and of the local Societies in Toronto, has been actively interesting itself in its preservation and restoration.

In negotiations opened with the Mayor of Toronto in July last, I undertook on behalf of the Society that if the City would make surveys of the Fort as it now exists, and of the land attached to it, the Society would prepare the necessary plans for its restoration.

It had been ascertained by the Society that considerable encroachment had been made upon the Fort property as originally reserved and agreed to be conveyed to the City by the Government

The preliminary work desired has been done by the City, and those encroachments are shown on the City's plan submitted herewith

The boundaries marked thereon show the original outlines of the Old Fort property reserved years ago by the Government, for the preservation of the Fort, and none of which has been patented to any other parties the title still remaining in the Crown

On the NORTH side, the Grand Trunk yard, as at present appearing to be used comes closer than it should to the north side of the road from the Bathurst Street bridge, and also to the foot of the NORTH-EASTERN Ramparts. At the EAST end the original Eastern Bastion from which the "12 Noon Gun" of Old Times, used to be fired has been entirely cut down by the occupants of the Park Blackwell Co and they have also come too closely to the SOUTH-EASTERN Ramparts The rest of the Fort property is practically undisturbed

The plan for Restoration now presented prepared under the instructions of the Society by Messrs. Langley & Howland, is based upon the retention, by the City of the whole of the Fort property but with the exception of the eastern bastion cut away by the Park Blackwell Co., can at once be proceeded with.

The earliest original plans have been obtained by the courtesy of Dr Doughty of the Dominion Archives at Ottawa, the whole of the Imperial Ordnance plans affecting Canada having recently been transferred to the Archives by the Imperial authorities.

In the plan of November 1813 which includes a large part of the adjacent neighborhood the location and details of the Old Fort, as then existing are shown practically in general outline the same as at present. The valley of the Garrison Creek is shown and the elevated knoll on which the Fort was situated, with the Creek running along its foot and forming the ditch for the northern bastion

In the plan of March 1816 the details of the ramparts and interior buildings of the Fort are separately given with detailed measurements and cross-sections. This plan is also published in Robertson's Landmarks, page 292 Vol V

In the plan of November 1851 a survey made by Mr (now Sir) Sandford Fleming shows the Fort still extant, the Creek still running along its northern and around its eastern ramparts The buildings and the interior are practically the same as in 1816 and most of the buildings shown are still existing.

Comparison of the plan prepared by the City, with these original plans and examination on the ground show that the ramparts of

the Fort exist exactly on the same alignment as of old but sadly worn away by the wasting of well nigh one hundred years

The Society's Plan now presented builds the old Ramparts up again to their original condition, and restores them as a complete Fortress.

At the WEST there was originally a sunken ditch for the protection of the Western Batteries. This was filled in at the time of the construction of the Garrison sewer by the City It is proposed that it shall be restored to its original condition and the earth excavated applied to the restoration of the earth work of the ramparts. The top of the Ramparts will be 15 feet in width on that it is proposed there should be a promenade, following the whole circuit of the Fortress and having on the South face, overlooking the Lake seats placed for the use of visitors

At the foot of the Ramparts, outside will be replaced the continuous line of wood pickets which originally encircled the Fort, and are peculiar to this class of Stockaded Forts Some of these pickets are still in place and are also shown in early drawings and photographs, being pointed, and set inclining outwards at an angle, as a *chevaux de frise* and forming the Palisades.

At the EAST and WEST entrances, at the ends of the original road way as still existing through the Fort it is proposed that there should be erected two Memorial Gates, of adequate elevation following the examples of the restoration of the ramparts at Quebec and providing as there a continuous footway over the roadway and around the ramparts. One of these to be known as the "Brock" Gate, the other as the "Simcoe Gate in memory of the two leading Personages in our history when the Fort was first established

The roadway to the Eastern gate would rise up to the entrance as of old The Western gate would communicate with the road to the west by a suitable bridge crossing over the restored sunken ditch

In the INTERIOR, the batteries will be replaced as per the original plans, and the guns which in later years have been removed and are reported to be in store elsewhere, will be placed back in position.

The buildings of the Barracks Block Houses and Magazines which practically remain in the same positions as in 1816 will be repaired

At the EAST end, next the east gate, there was the "Officers and Men's Guard Houses" having a verandah in front, as shown in the drawing in "Robertson's Landmarks" page 7, Vol VIII, and on

the plan of 1816. In this the "Queen's Rangers Lodge" or Lodge No. 3 of Ancient York Masons, met in 1799-1800. It is proposed that this building shall be restored in its original form.

Near the NORTH WEST bastion there is still in fair order the one-storey brick "Senior Officers Quarters" of 1815. In the cellar is still remaining the solid masonry vault in which the "military chest" of the Province used to be kept. This building has been held in continuous occupation as Headquarters, either for the Garrison or for the Military District since its inception until a few years ago when the headquarters were removed to the Stanley Barracks.

In the SOUTH RAMPARTS is the "No 1 BLOCKHOUSE" on a stone foundation, in the exact position shown on the plan of November, 1813 and so indexed again on a plan of July 1814 and again on the plan of 1816.

On the NORTH side of the roadway are two long one-storey Barracks. These buildings are constructed of hewn logs, but are now clapboarded. They are divided into four cottages each with large, quaint fire-places in the low-ceilinged rooms.

In the CENTRE are, the original POWDER MAGAZINE, the large No. 2 BLOCKHOUSE with flagstaff above and the STONE MAGAZINE, over the doorway of which there is cut on the keystone the inscription "34 Geo III," making its date 1794.

At the WEST end on each side of the western roadway are still existing but in need repair the original "SOLDIERS BARRACKS," being two long, one-storey brick buildings, each divided into three cottages.

All these buildings are shown and indexed on the plan of 1816. There is therefore, ample material for restoration. It is suggested that these buildings and barracks when restored might well be used as museums and as permanent quarters for old Military Veterans, who would be the guardians of the Fort and guides for visitors.

If the names of the Regiments which in the last hundred years have been quartered within this old Fort, were placed over the doors, there would be a noble record which would include almost all the older regiments of the British Army which have served in America and the Regiments early raised in Canada for her defence, which were afterwards either disbanded or merged into other regiments.

The Restoration proposed is a simple and practical one, which can be immediately began, and which would preserve the memories of this historic spot for the education of our youth be a reverend Memorial to the men who gallantly served our country and be an attraction to the travelling public and for the enjoyment of our own Citizens.

These Plans are respectfully submitted by the Ontario Historical Society to the Historical and Military Societies for their consideration

BARLOW CUMBERLAND
President O.H.S

Toronto, 12th January 1909

Extract from the Address of Major-General Brock when opening the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, at York, on 27th July, 1812

We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils and by vigour in our operations we may teach the enemy this lesson that a country defended by free men, enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, cannot be conquered

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Old Fort York

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Ontario Historical Society

ORGANIZED 1888
INCORPORATED 1899

Memorandum to accompany the Plans

of the

Restoration of Old Fort York

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SUBMITTED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE

HISTORICAL MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

AT

A MEETING IN THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE

12TH JANUARY 1909

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Alex Fraser Toronto.	Jas H Coyne, M.A. F.R.C.S St. Thomas

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BRITISH FORCES

Detachments of which have been Quartered in the OLD FORT YORK and TORONTO between 1795 and 1870.

1ST DRAGOON GUARDS
19TH LIGHT DRAGOONS

13TH HUSSARS
GOVERNOR GENERAL'S BODY GUARD

Royal Navy
Royal Artillery

10th Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery
Royal Marine Artillery

Royal Engineers

Royal Sappers and Miners

Royal Military Train

Queen's Rangers.
2nd York Militia
8th King's Regiment.
Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Glengarry Light Infantry
Loyal Indians. (Givens.)
1st Royal Scots
5th Feet.
6th Foot
15th Foot.
16th Foot
17th Foot
20th Foot
23rd Foot
24th Foot
30th Foot
32nd Foot
34th Foot
37th Foot
40th Foot
41st Foot
47th Foot
49th Foot (Brock's Regt.)

60th Rifles
63rd Foot.
69th Foot
68th Foot
68th Foot
70th Foot.
71st Foot.
73rd Feet
76th Foot.
79th Foot
91st Foot.
89th Feet.
93rd Foot.
100th Royal Canadians
103rd Foot
104th Foot.
1st York Militia
1st Durham Militia
De Watteville's Regiment
Royal Canadian Volunteers
Canadian Voltigeurs
Canadian Fencibles
Royal Canadian Rifles

Compiled with the assistance of the Archives Department, Ottawa.

Ontario Historical Society 12th Jan. 1909

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Thorold and Beaver Dame Historical Society	Thorold
Elgin County Historical Society	St. Thomas
Norfolk County Historical Society	Simcoe
Women's Elgin Historical Society	St. Thomas
London and Middlesex County Historical Society	London
Ottawa Women's Canadian Historical Society	Ottawa
Bruce County Historical Society	Southampton
The Huron Institute	Collingwood
Lennox and Addington County Historical Society	Napanee
Lundy's Lane Historical Society	Niagara Falls
Women's Wentworth Historical Society	Hamilton
Grenville County Historical Society	Prescott
Kingston and Frontenac Historical Society	Kingston
Niagara Historical Society	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Oxford County Historical Society	Woodstock
Peterborough Historical Society	Peterborough
Halton County Historical Society	Milton
Lambton County Historical Society	Sarnia
Women's Bowmanville Historical Society	Bowmanville
Victoria County Historical Society	Lindsay
Essex County Historical Society	Windsor
Northumberland County Historical Society	Cobourg
Tecumseth Historical Society	Tharnesville
Brant Historical Society	Brantford
Thunder Bay Historical Society	Fort William
Canadian Methodists Historical Society	Toronto
Women's Canadian Historical Society	Toronto
Imperial Order Daughters of Empire	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists Association	Hamilton
York Pioneer and Historical Society	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists Association	Toronto

Societies Associated in Defence of the Fort.

Army and Navy Veterans	Toronto
Veterans of 1866	Toronto
Battleford Column Association	Toronto
North West Field Force Association 1885	Toronto
South African Veteran Association	Toronto
The Navy League	Toronto
British Empire League	Toronto
Canadian Club	Toronto
St. George's Society	Toronto
Ontario Society of Artists	Toronto
The Board of Education	Toronto
Old Fort Protection Association	Toronto

View from Half Moon Battery look ng west. Stanley Barracks in the distance
From "The Old Fort"—J. E. Gibson.

Memorandum to Accompany the Plans for the Restoration of Old Fort York Prepared by the Ontario Historical Society.

FOR a number of years there have been discussions in progress with respect to the use and future of this OLD FORT When in 1903, it was agreed with the Dominion Government that this Fort property would, together with the other Ordnance lands comprising the Garrison Common, be transferred to the City of Toronto, it was a part of the Agreement that this old Fort should be "restored and maintained by the City as an Historical Memorial for ever"

While there have been many projects suggested with respect to a use to be made of it, there have been no plans proposed for its restoration, and much unrest has been thereby occasioned

The Ontario Historical Society, on behalf of the County Historical and Patriotic Societies in Ontario, and of the local Societies in Toronto, has been actively interesting itself in its preservation and restoration

In negotiations opened with the Mayor of Toronto in July last, I undertook, on behalf of the Society, that if the City would make surveys of the Fort as it now exists, and of the land attached to it, the Society would prepare the necessary plans for its restoration

It had been ascertained by the Society that considerable encroachment had been made upon the Fort property, as originally reserved and agreed to be conveyed to the City by the Government.

The preliminary work, desired, has been done by the City, and these encroachments are shown on the City's plan submitted herewith.

The boundaries marked thereon show the original outlines of the Old Fort property reserved years ago by the Government for the preservation of the Fort, and none of which has been patented to any other parties, the title still remaining in the Crown

On the NORTH side, the Grand Trunk yard, as at present appearing to be used, comes closer than it should to the north side of the road from the Bathurst Street bridge, and also to the foot of the NORTH-EASTERN Ramparts At the EAST end the original Eastern Bastion, from which the "12 Noon Gun" of Old Times, used to be fired, has been entirely cut down by the occupants of the Park Blackwell Co, and they have also come too closely to the SOUTH EASTERN Ramparts The rest of the Fort property is practically undisturbed

The plan for Restoration now presented, prepared under the instructions of the Society by Messrs Langley & Howland, is based upon the retaining by the City of the whole of the Fort property but with the exception of the eastern bastion, cut away by the Park Blackwall Co, can at once be proceeded with

The earliest original plans have been obtained by the courtesy of Dr Doughty, of the Dominion Archives at Ottawa, the whole of the Imperial Ordnance plans affecting Canada having recently been transferred to the Archives by the Imperial authorities

In the plan of November 1813, which includes a large part of the adjacent neighborhood, the location and details of the Old Fort, as then existing are shown practically in general outline the same as at present. The valley of the Garrison Creek is shown, and the elevated knoll on which the Fort was situated, with the Creek running along its foot and forming the ditch for the northern bastion

In the plan of March, 1816 the details of the ramparts and interior buildings of the Fort are separately given with detailed measurements and cross-sections. This plan is also published in Robertson's Landmarks, page 293 Vol V

In the plan of November, 1851 a survey made by Mr (now Sir) Sandford Fleming shows the Fort still intact, the Creek still running along its northern and around its eastern ramparts The buildings and the interior are practically the same as in 1816 and most of the buildings shown are still existing

Comparison of the plan prepared by the City, with these original plans, and examination on the ground show that the ramparts of

the Fort exist exactly on the same alignment as of old, but sadly worn away by the wasting of well nigh one hundred years

The Society's Plan, now presented, builds the old Ramparts up again to their original condition, and restores them as a complete Fortress

At the WEST there was originally a sunken ditch for the protection of the Western Batteries. This was filled in at the time of the construction of the Garrison sewer by the City. It is proposed that it shall be restored to its original condition, and the earth excavated applied to the restoration of the earth work of the ramparts. The top of the Ramparts will be 15 feet in width, on this it is proposed there should be a promenade, following the whole circuit of the fortress, and having on the South face, overlooking the Lake, seats placed for the use of visitors.

At the foot of the Ramparts, outside, will be replaced the continuous line of wood pickets, which originally encircled the Fort, and are peculiar to this class of Stockaded Forts Some of these pickets are still in place, and are also shown in early drawings and photographs being pointed, and set inclining outwards at an angle, as a *chevaux de frise* and forming the Palisades.

At the EAST and WEST entrances, at the ends of the original road ways as still existing through the Fort, it is proposed that there should be erected two Memorial Gates, of adequate character, following the examples of the restoration of the ramparts at Quebec, and providing, as there a continuous footway over the roadway and around the ramparts One of these to be known as the "Brock" Gate, the other as the 'Simcoe' Gate, in memory of the two leading Personages in our history when the Fort was first established

The roadway to the Eastern gate would rise up to the entrance as of old. The Western gate would communicate with the road to the west by a suitable bridge crossing over the restored sunken ditch.

In the INTERIOR the batteries will be replaced, as per the original plans, and the guns, which in later years have been removed and are reported to be in store elsewhere, will be placed back in position

The buildings of the Barracks, Block Houses and Magazines, which practically remain in the same positions as in 1816, will be repaired

At the EAST end next the east gate, there was the "Officers' and Men's Guard Houses," having a verandah in front, as shown in the drawing in "Robertson's Landmarks," page 7, Vol. VIII, and on

the plan of 1816 In this the "Queen's Rangers Lodge," or Lodge No 3 of Ancient York Masons, met in 1799 1800 It is proposed that this building shall be restored in its original form

Near the NORTH-WEST bastion there is still in fair order the one storey brick "Senior Officers' Quarters" of 1813 In the cellar is still remaining the solid masonry vault, in which the "military chest" of the Province used to be kept. This building has been held in continuous occupation as Headquarters, either for the Garrison or for the Military District, since its inception, until a few years ago when the headquarters were removed to the Stanley Barracks

In the SOUTH RAMPARTS is the "No 1 BLOCKHOUSE," on a stone foundation, in the exact position shown on the plan of November, 1813, and so indexed, again on a plan of July, 1814, and again on the plan of 1816

On the NORTH side of the roadway are two long, one-storey Barracks. These buildings are constructed of hewn logs, but are now clapboarded. They are divided into four cottages, each with large, quaint fire-places in the low-ceilinged rooms

In the CENTRE are, the original POWDER MAGAZINE, the large No 2 BLOCKHOUSE, with flagstaff above, and the STONE MAGAZINE, over the doorway of which there is cut on the keystone the inscription, "34 Geo III," making its date 1794.

At the WEST end, on each side of the western roadway, are still existing, but in sad repair, the original "SOLDIERS' BARRACKS," being two long, one-storey brick buildings, each divided into three cottages

All these buildings are shown and indexed on the plan of 1816 There is, therefore, ample material for restoration It is suggested that these buildings and barracks when restored might well be used as museums and as permanent quarters for old Military Veterans, who would be the guardians of the Fort and guides for visitors.

If the names of the Regiments, which in the last hundred years have been quartered within this old Fort, were placed over the doors, there would be a noble record which would include almost all the older regiments of the British Army which have served in America and the Regiments early raised in Canada for her defence, which were afterwards either disbanded or merged into other regiments

The Restoration proposed is a simple and practical one, which can be immediately begun, and which would preserve the memories of this historic spot for the education of our youth, be a reverend Memorial to the men who gallantly served our country and be an attraction to the travelling public and for the enjoyment of our own Citizens.

These Plans are respectfully submitted by the Ontario Historical Society to the Historical and Military Societies for their consideration.

BARLOW CUMBERLAND,
President O H S

Toronto, 12th January, 1909

Extract from the Address of Major-General Brock when opening the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, at York, on 27th July, 1812.

"We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils and by vigour in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson, that a country defended by free men enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, cannot be conquered."

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Ontario Historical Society

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Lieutenant Colonel Jesse Williams, Infantry, Regular Army	Williams
Major Thomas Bradley, Jr., Infantry, Regular Army	Bradley
Major Charles Hall Davis, Infantry, Regular Army	Davis
Major Edwin Forrest Harding, Infantry, Regular Army	Harding
Major Lloyd Hughes Brown, Infantry, Regular Army	Brown
Major Samuel Tankersley Lowell, Infantry, Regular Army	Lowell
Major Walter Robert Weaver, Infantry, Regular Army	Weaver
Captain Charles Ellis Stone, Infantry, Regular Army	Stone

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Watch it GROW
HARVEST the FRUIT